

Twenty20 meet Pakistan bound

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan are to follow England and South Africa by introducing Twenty20 cricket, the truncated version of the one-day game where both teams play for 20 overs.

"By introducing the Twenty20 competition in October or November with many games under lights, we are hoping to lure back the people to the grounds," Samiul Hasan, spokesman for the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Tuesday.

The board has been worried by low turnouts for domestic matches and the Pakistan-India Test series in March and April.

Supporters of Twenty20 see it as a bold way of attracting a new audience. Critics of the three-hour games are less impressed.

In a separate development, the board has signed former Test players Greg Chappell of Australia and Barry Richards of South Africa as coaching consultants.



PHOTO: STAR

An action from yesterday's 2nd Division Kabadi League match between Satrowza Nabehn Sangha and Manda Sangsad at the Outer Stadium kabadi court.

BCCI, UCB look

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that the BCCI was struggling to sort out its existing schedule.

"We are hard-pressed to sort out our own commitments this year," Dalmiya said, according to a report in the Times of India. He was referring to the scheduling conflicts with South Africa.

Fleming leads

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But although replays suggested Richardson had nicked the ball, Harper was unmoved with New Zealand on 35.

England already had the series wrapped up at 2-0 after a seven-wicket victory at Lord's and Monday's nine-wicket win at Headingley.

New Zealand were trying to avoid the fate of their 1978 predecessors who lost 3-0 in England - the last time England achieved a clean-sweep in a major Test series.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the third Test between England and New Zealand at Trent Bridge on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings			
Richardson c Vaughan b Giles	73		
Fleming not out	107		
Styris not out	12		
Extras: (lb-2, nb-2)	4		
Total: (For 1 wkt in 60 overs)	196		
Fall of wicket: 1-163			
To bat: Astle, McMillan, Oram, McCullum, Cairns, Mills, Franklin, Martin			

Bowler			
Hoggard	11	3	44
Harmison	15	6	30
Flintoff	7	0	33
Saggers	10	3	41
Giles	16	3	41
Vaughan	1	0	5

ENGLAND: Trescottick, Strauss, Butcher, Vaughan, Thorpe, Flintoff, Jones, Giles, Hoggard, Harmison, Saggers.

Toss: New Zealand.

Made for each

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danger but shrug it off. "The atmosphere is less intense than in 2002. There is more mental freshness, less pressure. In 2002, there was pressure everywhere, all the time," said defender Bixente Lizarazu.

Defeat would perhaps be harder for the French people to swallow than for the English who go into the match as underdogs. Defeat would also provide a fine motive for revenge in the next battle in the long-running rivalry.

"Whatever happens, we're always ready for a beer together afterwards," said Lucien, the waiter.

'All's not lost yet'



AFP, Nottingham

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said here Wednesday the tourists still had plenty to play for despite going into Thursday's final Test against England at Trent Bridge 2-0 down in the three-match series.

"We haven't won too many in our history in England. It's an opportunity to win one more in England, so that's very special," Fleming told reporters at Trent Bridge.

New Zealand have only won four out of their 46 previous Tests in England.

England are on the brink of completing their first major white-wash since their 3-0 home defeat of New Zealand back in 1978.

They crushed the current generation of Kiwis by seven wickets at Lord's and followed that up with a nine-wicket win at Headingley concluded Monday.

"It's still very disappointing not to be part of a live series but winning a Test match in this series is the only thing we've got to cling on to," left-handed batsman Fleming added.

His team have missed fast bowler Shane Bond who, without

bowling a ball in the series, returned to New Zealand on Tuesday to continue his recovery from a stress fracture of the back.

But Fleming said New Zealand's series defeat was largely down to an England team that had dominated their opponents and cramped his style.

"The most frustrating thing for me was being behind the game in positions where we should be able to be a bit more imaginative. We're actually on the defensive from ball one," added Fleming.

New Zealand could make several changes to the team that lost at Headingley.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori was declared "extremely unlikely to the point of being negligible," for this match by tour manager Lindsay Crocker after pulling a hamstring.

His place could be taken by left-arm swing bowler James Franklin, called up from club cricket in England.

Right-arm pace bowler Kyle Mills, in the tour party but yet to play in the Test series, is also in contention with Daryl Tuffey the bowler under threat.

"I'd say it was pretty strong," said Fleming when asked about the likelihood of changes to a bowling attack he again berated for a "lack of penetration".

"The left-armed (Franklin) certainly comes into consideration and without the left-arm spinner that seems a logical choice."

Headingley opening batsman Michael Pappas is definitely out with a broken finger but the man he replaced, Craig McMillan, could play despite a similar injury keeping him out of the second Test.

Mathew Sinclair, like Franklin plucked out of English club cricket, provides batting cover.

All-rounder Jacob Oram has a broken right little finger but has recovered from the side strain that prevented him bowling at Headingley.

Meanwhile New Zealand stalwart Chris Cairns has said this will be his last Test, on a ground where he starred for Nottinghamshire.

The all-rounder's knee injury problems have made five-day cricket increasingly tough and Fleming said: "He (Cairns) always inspires. I'm going to miss not playing with him in Test cricket."

"But it's just the right time for him to go. He didn't have the sting in his tail with the ball he wanted the other day and that's something he's known for some time."

"We just hope he's got something special to go out with. It's the perfect ground for him to do it."

ZCU postpones

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"The package of measures strikes a balance in protecting the sport in Zimbabwe while ensuring that the issues that arise from the dispute, including the importance of the players to the ZCU and the integrity of the game, are transparently addressed."

These proposals will now go forward to the ICC Executive Board Meeting on June 30 where the directors will be asked to support these actions.

"In the meantime, I've been assured by the ZCU that it will be prepared to take the players back without any conditions and the ICC remains hopeful that the ZCU and the players can resolve their differences."

The ICC and ZCU also agreed to recommend the appointment of a troubleshooter to investigate the claims of racism in the game in Zimbabwe.

The African nation will continue with its international one-day programme which involves scheduled series against England and Pakistan in October and November and the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September.

It was also recommended that India and South Africa undertake A team tours of Zimbabwe during July and August to expose the Zimbabwe team to more first-class cricket.

Zimbabwe will resume its Test match commitments from January 2005 when they are due to play Bangladesh.

The sub-committee in Dubai was composed of Mani, Bob Merriman from Cricket Australia, Jagmohan Dalmiya from the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Ray Mali from the United Cricket Board of South Africa and representatives of the ZCU.

Australia, India and South Africa have all offered to assist in the development of Zimbabwean cricketers by providing places within their high performance programmes to develop promising players.

Taylor cautions

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"There's been analysis ad nauseam about Murali for years and they're still all talking about it," he said.

"It's a shame because people will always look at him and question whether he should be put up there with the game's other leading bowlers who are legal."

"I feel sorry for him that the administrators haven't handled it better."

Murali, who has taken a world record 527 wickets in 90 Tests, has indicated he could skip the Australian tour after Australian Prime Minister John Howard agreed last month with an interviewer who labelled him a "chucker".

Howard has since said he was referring solely to Murali's 'doosra'.

Vat net widened, suppl duty raised

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providers, film distributors, commercial and apartment buildings, holding various social events and the serving of food in community centres.

Other major items coming under the VAT network include, pressure cooker at manufacturing stage and LP Gas Cylinder, HR coil, copra (of coconut) and raw silk at import stage.

Some other services, which will figure in the VAT network, are shooting spots, historic places, tourist spots, lottery ticket sellers, upgrade tailoring shops in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The budget proposed to withdraw VAT at sources of insurance, shipping bills of hundred percent export-oriented industries and commissions of clearing and forwarding agents related to the industries.

The spinning and weaving industries have been shifted to VAT network from excise duty and excise duty leviable on their products has been earmarked for with-

drawal. Domestic air ticket tax has been brought under excise duty.

The budget proposed to set up a large tax payers unit for VAT, similar to one in the income tax department, for providing better services.

It proposed to refund 80 percent tax paid on inputs relating to gas, electricity and insurance.

Customs duty and VAT have also been withdrawn from import of capital machinery needed for dairy, poultry farming, generation of solar energy, medical and hospital equipment and accessories.

The supplementary duty on import of sugar has been reduced to 15 percent from 30 percent. Duty on a cellphone set has been fixed at Tk 1,500 irrespective of price.

The duty on import of papers has been reduced to 25 percent.

The tier of customs duties has been reduced to three from existing four. The highest customs duty rate has also been reduced to 25 percent from 30 percent. The three-tier customs duty now will be 7.5 percent, 15 percent and 25

percent.

The measure will result in Tk 325 crore gain and Tk 1,100 crore loss on the basis of present import value, taking the total loss to Tk 775 crore.

But the government hopes to offset the loss through administrative improvement and stepped up clearance of goods through customs and use of information technology in the management of bonded warehouse system which will bring additional revenue of Tk 300 crore.

Another Tk 1,028 crore is expected to come in consequences of restructuring of duties.

The government hopes the revenue target of Tk 16,008 crore from the customs duty could be achieved.

The duty on import of motor cars and jeeps has been re-fixed at 30 percent in place of existing 15 percent on those having cylinder capacity above 1,649. But on those not exceeding 3,000, the proposal is to enhance to 60 percent from existing 40 percent. On the capac-

ity above 3,000, the duty was proposed at 90 percent, up from 75 percent.

Considering the international market price hike of crude oil, the government kept the assessable value of one barrel of the fuel unchanged and fixed at \$18.30 despite the rise of the price to over \$40 in the international market.

The government also reduced advance income tax (AIT) on all types of petroleum and lowered the existing supplementary duty on kerosene to 15 percent from 25 percent.

The tax burden on crude oil, kerosene and all other fuels will be reduced by 9 percent, 25 percent and 10 percent.

The supplementary duty has also been rationalised and brought down to 15 percent, 25 percent and 30 percent. The supplementary duty on cigarette has been rationalised.

The existing supplementary duty on locally manufactured tiles has been reduced to 5 percent, down from 20 percent.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

40 Seek damages duckling, 59 Ugly eventually 16 Mr. Sharif

1 Not so much 41 Stage piece 20 TV alien

5 Upper limit 43 Hirt and Gore 1 "Hawaii Five-O" 23 Slight amount

8 "baby!" 45 Mark of discredit star Jack 24 Prior to 25 Highland music-makers

12 Stage statuette 47 Tenderfoot in cyber-space 3 Affix an X, maybe 27 Watch chain

13 Chicken-link 51 Part of a Super-man 4 Automobile style 29 Without a — (broke)

14 Hotel employee 52 Items in movie stars' wallets 6 Detergent brand 32 Fast-food choice

15 Ann and Andy, e.g. 54 Unoriginal one 7 High-ranking Ottoman 34 Vitamin C providers

17 City of India 55 The girl admiral 56 Incubator noise 8 Mix 37 Artesian appellation

18 Power-house 57 Porgy's love get rid of junk 39 A Baldwin 42 Stylish no more

19 Famed U.S. 58 Double curve 10 Exhaust 44 Trades 45 Wound cover

21 Danielle Steel's "Message From —" 58 Double curve 10 Exhaust 44 Trades 45 Wound cover

22 Plankton component 44 Trades 45 Wound cover

23 Belle of the ball, maybe 46 Record- ing 48 Forment 49 Concep- tion

26 Ump 48 Forment 49 Concep- tion

28 Unfaithful 49 Concep- tion

31 Speedy steed 50 "Sports- Center" venue 53 Oohs' mates

33 Privy 50 "Sports- Center" venue 53 Oohs' mates

35 Calcall? 53 Oohs' mates

36 Started 53 Oohs' mates

38 Shape shifter?

Solution time: 21 mins.

S M U G B R A A B C D
L A N A R E O L E A R
E X I T P O L L I L A V A
W I T L A Y E G R E T
S A D T O E
S A T I N O U S T I C L E
E P I C F O X G R A L
W E E K D A Y Q U E T S
L O X P E T
R I S E N B U M S K I
E D N A G O T O S E E D
S L A V A N T P A L E
T T P L E S O S A L L P S

CRYPTOQUIP

T G U C A K B V Q W U Q N K C L

T Q N W V G I K B L G P B O O A

V U I I Q M C A K B P M L G V Y Q A

M V Y Q O M I V A V I U W

Yesterday's Cryptquip: HE DIDN'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RODEO, BUT DID BECAUSE HE WAS ROPED INTO IT.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: I equals R

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Safety net cast wide

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women: The budget proposes a 10 percent increase in allowances in this scheme to Tk 165 and a rise in the number of beneficiaries by 1 lakh to 6 lakh, effective from July 1. The number of beneficiaries was 2.08 lakh and monthly allowance was Tk 100 during the AL period.

Honorarium programme for insolvent freedom fighters: It proposes an increase in the number of beneficiaries by 10,000 to 60,000 from July 1.

Fund for mitigating risk due to natural disaster: This fund introduced by the BNP government received an allocation of Tk 75 crore earlier. An additional Tk 75 crore may be allocated to the fund in the next fiscal year.

Fund for rehabilitation of the acid-burnt women and the physically handicapped: An allocation of Tk 25 crore may be made to this fund in the next fiscal year in addition to Tk 40 crore that the fund received earlier.

Fund for the housing of the homeless: An allocation of Tk 98 crore was made earlier to the housing fund and it may see Tk 50 in fresh allocation in the next financial year.

VGD: The allocation of 1.65 lakh metric tonnes may be raised to 1.70 lakh metric tonnes in the revised budget and to 2 lakh tonnes in the next fiscal year's budget.

VGF: The allocation of 15,000 metric tonnes will be increased to 95,000 metric tonnes in the revised budget and to 1 lakh tonnes in the

Saifur targets 6pc GDP

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Saifur disclosed that, in the nine months up to March 2004, there has been a 14.7-percent increase in exports, compared to 6.2-percent during the corresponding period last year. Import, during the same time, has increased by 15.4 percent, as against that of 7.4 percent last year.

"Due to an 11.4-percent increase in remittances from expatriate Bangladeshis during the period, the current-account surplus rose to the tune of US\$227 million," Saifur added.

The veteran financial planner told the House yesterday that his government from the next fiscal will adopt a medium-term pro-poor macro-economic framework. "Implementation of the framework will depend on mobilisation of necessary domestic resources and foreign assistance. The macro-economic framework will have to be revised if domestic resources and external assistance fall short of the projection," Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur

Rahman told the House yesterday in his budget speech for FY2004-05.

The annual GDP growth rate has to be raised to 7 percent on an average to achieve the poverty reduction targets envisaged in the Millennium Development Goal by 2015, Saifur said. Substantial public as well as private investment will be needed to achieve the desired growth, he pointed out.

"Our revenue/GDP ratio is about 10.5 percent, whereas expenditure/GDP ratio is 14.5 percent. We have to increase both these ratios to attain high growth and reduce poverty," Saifur said while tabling his 10th national budget.

His projection sees revenue/GDP ratio to be elevated from 10.5 percent at present to 12 percent in FY2007-08 and government expenditure/GDP ratio of 14.5 percent to 16.2 percent. Budget deficit will be maintained at 4.2 percent of the GDP and annual inflation contained below 4.5 percent, the finance guru of the ruling coalition government

informed his fellow lawmakers. He said expenditure in the budget for poverty reduction would be progressively raised by at least one percentage point of the GDP every year.

"In continuation of our economic growth and poverty reduction strategy and in the light of millennium development goal, we are implementing from this year the medium term national strategy for economic growth, poverty reduction and social development," the finance minister added.

"[I]n continuation of our economic growth and poverty reduction strategy and in the light of the Millennium Development Goal, we are implementing from this year the Medium Term National Strategy for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social Development," the country's treasurer added.

On mobilisation of foreign assistance, he said, "I believe that proper utilisation of foreign assistance will play a facilitating role" for that.